

# Mr. Praise-God Barbone his Petition,

As it was presented to the Parliament, *Thursday* the ninth of *February*, 1659. in behalf of himself and many Thousands. With the Parliaments Answer thereunto.

To the Parliament of the Commonwealth of *England, &c.*

*The Representation and Address of the well-affected Persons, Inhabitants of the Cities of London and Westminster, and places adjacent, being faithful and Constant Adherers to this Parliament, who are resolved (by the assistance of Almighty God) to stand by, assert, and maintain their Authority, against all opposers, notwithstanding the present confidence and bold attempts of the Promoters of Regal Interest, by the declared Enemies of their Cause and Authority.*

*Had 11<sup>th</sup> 1659*

**W**Hereas the Good Old Cause was for Civil and Christian Liberty, against Oppression and Persecution; the Oppressors and Persecutors were chiefly the King, his Lords, and Clergy, and their adherents; who to effect their Designs, raised War against the Parliament: whereupon the Parliament in defence of Civil and Christian Liberty, call the oppressed and persecuted to their aid; by whose assistance the oppressors and persecutors have been subdued, Kingship and Peerage abolished, and Persecution checked; by which, the number of conscientious friends to the Parliament have been so exceedingly increased, that they are now (by Gods assistance) in a far more able capacity of keeping down their Enemies, then they were in those times when they subdued them.

Nevertheless so watchful hath the restless Enemy been to make advantage, that what (time after time) he hath lost in the Field, he hath endeavoured to regain, even in the Parliaments Council. Where, because they had not the Face openly to bring in the King, with the former Oppressions and Persecutions, they shrouded and veiled themselves, one while under a Personal Treaty: Another while, under a Cloak of Zeal against Blasphemy and Heresie; their endeavours being to bring in the King upon any terms; to cherish the Persecuting Party, and to brow-beat their most Conscientious Opposers.

Upon which pretences, nevertheless they have through tract of time, and the unsettledness of Government, prevailed so far, as under the Notion of a Moderate Party, to get the subtilty of their Friends into many places of Trust and Command, both Civil and Military; through whose countenance and encouragement, albeit the Parliament upon good grounds Voted the Government by Kings and Lords, useless, burthensome and dangerous, and declare very largely for Liberty of Conscience; yet of late, a general boldness hath been taken to plead a Necessity of returning to the Government of King and Lords, a taking in of the Kings Son; or which is all one, for a return of the justly secluded Members, or a Free Parliament, without due qualifications, where by the good Old Cause of Liberty and Freedom (so long contended for, against Regal Interest, with the expence of much Blood and Treasure) and the Assertors thereof will be prostituted to satisfy the Lusts of the Enemies of the Commonwealth; wherein they have prevailed so far, that unless all conscientious persons in Parliament, Army, Navy and Commonwealth, do speedily unite, and watchfully look about them; as the Sword will certainly (though secretly and silently) be stolen out of their hands, so also will they finde all Civil Authority fall suddenly into the hands of their enraged enemies, and a return of all those Violences, Oppressions and Persecutions, which have cost so much Blood and Treasure to extirpate.

The serious apprehensions whereof, hath stirred up your cordial Friends to desire you to use all possible endeavours to prevent the Commonwealths Adversaries in this their most dangerous Stratagem; And as the most effectual means thereunto. We pray,

1. That you will admit no person or persons to sit, or Vote in this, or any future Parliament, or Council of State, or to be in any Office or Judicatory, or any publick Trust in the Commonwealth, or Command in the Army, Navy, or Garrisons, or to be a publick Preacher to the people at Sea or Land, or any Instructor of Youth, except such only as shall abjure, or by Solemn Engagement renounce the pretended Title or Titles of *Charles Stuart*, and the whole Line of the late King *James*; and of every other person as a single person, pretending, or which shall pretend to the Crown, or Government of these Nations of *England, Scotland, and Ireland*, or any of them, and the Dominions and Territories belonging to them, or any of them, or any other single person, Kingship, Peerage, or any power co-ordinate with the peoples Representatives in Parliament; And all coercive power in matter of Religion, according to a Vote of a Grand Committee of this Parliament of the 11. of *Sept.* 1659.

2. We further pray, that it may be Enacted, That whosoever shall move, offer, or propound in Parliament, Council, or in any other Court, or Publick Meeting, any matter or thing in order to the introducing of *Charles Stuart*, or any of that Family, as aforesaid; or any other single Person, House of Lords coercive power in matter of Religion, or any power co-ordinate with the Peoples Representatives in Parliament, may be deemed and adjudged guilty of high Treason, and may suffer the pains and penalty thereof. And that whosoever shall in Parliament, Council, or any other publique Court, or Meeting, move for, or propose the Revocation of this Law (when by you Enacted) may be deemed and judged guilty of high Treason, and suffer the pains and penalties thereof.

In prosecution whereof, we shall stand by you with our Estates and Lives, to assert and maintain your Authority against all Oppositions whatsoever, notwithstanding the present Confidence and bold Attempts of yours and our Enemies.

Signed, *Praise-God Barbone*, with the promise of the Subscriptions of many Thousands.

Resolved by the Parliament, That the Petitioners have the Thanks of the House for their Expressions of their good Affections to the Parliament.

*The Petitioners being again called in, Mr. Speaker gave them this Answer.*

Gentlemen, The House have read your Petition, and they do finde that you have been such as have constantly born them good Affections, and that your Affections are the same still: and for the Expressions of your good Affections, the House hath commanded me to give you Thanks; and in their Names I do give you Thanks accordingly.

It is desired, That all such as are Lovers of the Good Old Cause do send in their Subscriptions to this Petition, unto the place appointed in those Papers that come to their Hands: Yea, and with all the speed that may be, to testify their Zeal to the Good Old Cause, by their being in readines to assert it.

London, Printed by *R. W.* 1660.